

More aid sought for homeless vets

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BODY:

A handful of veterans groups Friday urged Congress to increase funding for homeless veterans, saying the Department of Veterans Affairs is not equipped with drug-treatment programs, job training and temporary housing for this special group.

Brian A. Hampton, president of Circle of Friends, a national support group for organizations that help homeless veterans, is on a 15-city tour to highlight the need for more funding to aid the homeless. He was joined at a Chicago news conference by veterans advocates from Cook County, the City of Chicago and the office of U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.). Hampton said that no more than 1 percent of the VA's annual budget is earmarked for such programs.